

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136493

FOL REPEAT OF STATE 136493 TO ROME INFO SECDEF, CNO, ONR WASHDC,
NAVFACENGCOM WASHDC, SECDEF/ISA/FMRA, CSAF, HQ ADC ENT AFB CO/
XPQDS, DET 3 SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI AS IT/CC JUN 11

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, IT, OTRA

SUBJECT: BAKER-NUNN (BN) RELOCATION SURVEY

REF: A. STATE 077412 FTG 05/00428 APR 75

B. ROME 5392 DTG 14/10458 APR 75

1. ASSESSMENT PROVIDED BY REFTEL B APPRECIATED. THIS
ASSESSMENT AS WELL AS DATA FROM PROPOSED SURVEYS WILL BE
USED IN SHAPING FINAL PROPOSAL TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.
WE AGREE THAT OPERATIONAL NECESSITY WILL HAVE TO BE
EXTREME TO WARRANT PRESSING FOR RELOCATION TO SARDINIA,
BUT AT THIS POINT SURVEY DATA IS NEEDED TO MAKE THAT
DETERMINATION. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK GOI AUTHORIZA-
TION FOR SURVEYS TO PROCEED TO LOCATIONS ON SARDINIA/
SICILY AS PROPOSED REFTEL A.

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2. RELOCATION EFFORT IS INDEPENDENT OF STAFFING CHANGES.

THE SAN VITO BAKER-NUNN SITE (DET 3, 18 SURVEILLANCE SQUADRON) IS PRESENTLY MANNED BY 21 USAF PERSONNEL; DEPENDENTS TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 34; NO ITALIAN NATIONALS EMPLOYED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. SHOULD RELOCATED SITE BECOME CONTRACTED FACILITY, WE ANTICIPATE APPROXIMATELY 11 MAN OPERATION. IN EITHER AVENT (USAF OR CONTRACTOR MANNING), NUMBERS WOULD INCREASE SLIGHTLY FOR A RELOCATION WITHOUT BASE SUPPORT.

3. WITH REGARD TO REFTEL B, PARA 3, THE BAKER-NUNN

MISSION NOW IS CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH FAINT, DISTANT SATELLITES OUT TO SYNCHRONOUS ALTITUDE; WHEREAS WHEN SAN VITO WAS CHOSEN, THE BAKER-NUNN SYSTEM WAS NOT BEING TASKED TO ACQUIRE AND TRACK SYNCHRONOUS SATELLITES. NOW THIS SYSTEM IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THESE SATELLITES. THE REQUIREMENT TO ACQUIRE AND TRACK SYNCHRONOUS SATELLITES MAKE DARK SKIES AND GOOD NIGHT-TIME WEATHER, THE PRIMARY CRITERIA FOR SITE SELECTION. THERE ARE NO KNOWN INTERFERENCES OF BAKER-NUNN WITH AIR TRAFFIC. ON THE CONTRARY, AIR TRAFFIC (BECAUSE OF NEED FOR RUNWAY LIGHTING) COULD CONCEIVABLY INTERFERE WITH BAKER-NUNN. TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LIGHTING, IF SIGONELLA WERE CHOSEN, THE OPERATIONAL SITE WOULD HAVE TO BE LOCATED OFF THE BASE; HOWEVER, ALL OTHER SUPPORT FUNCTIONS COULD BE LOCATED ON BASE.

4. DATA SHARING BY THE SAN VITO BAKER-NUNN HAS, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY BEEN INDIRECT, THROUGH NASA AND THE SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY. THE OFFER OF DIRECT ACCESS TO DATA REMAINS OPEN BUT APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES OR OBSERVATORIAS, PERHAPS THROUGH A LACK OF CONTACTS. KISSINGER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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